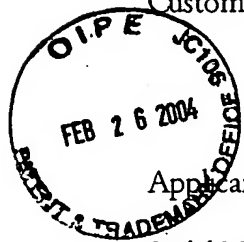


#11/A 3-10

Customer No.: 26308

Patent



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: West et al.

Attorney Docket No.: 9222.17412-CIP 1

Serial No.: 10/017,685

Examiner: L. Thanh

Filed: 14 December 2001

Group Art Unit: 3763

Title: Systems and Methods Employing a Bite Block Insert for Positioning and Stabilizing External Instruments Deployed in the Body

AMENDMENT A

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed September 26, 2003.

An automatic two month extension of time to respond, up to and including February 26, 2004, is respectfully requested. The requisite fee accompanies this Amendment.

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